OBITUARY.

The Death of the Hon. Thaddeus Stevens.

A Sketch of His Life and Public Services.

STEVENS.

Epecial Despatch to The Evening Telegraph. WASHINGTON, Aug. 12 .- The Hon, Thaddeus Stevens died at precisely 12 o'clock last night, at his residence in this city, on Capitol Hill. Simon Stevens; Thaddeus Stevens, Jr., a nephew; and his housekeeper, Mrs. Smith, were at his bedside; also Sister Loretta and Sister Genevieve, o the Providence Hospital; Mr. J. Scott Patterson' of the Interior Department; and the servants of his household. He passed away calmly and quietly, and without a struggle.

The death of Mr. Stevens has been looked for at any hour since Sunday. Yesterday he remarked to those around him that he was rapidly sinking, and bad no hope of ever resuming his accustomed seat in the Capitol. The calmness and even cheerfulness evinced by him so long as speech was left him, up to four o'clock yesterday afternoon, was remarked by all. On Monday he expressed considerable anxiety in regard to the state of the country, induced mainly perhaps by the current reports of apprehended troubles in Louisiana-He expresses a strong desire that Mr. Johnson might abstain from any measures of a character calculated to disturb the public tranquility, and hoped that no necessity might arise for the reassembling of Congress in September, Yesterday afternoon he conversed with great cheerfulness and animation, talking on a variety of topics, and evincing a lively interest in that which interested those around him. In conversation with Mr. Simon Stevens, about the same time, he referred to Mr. Evarts. the new Attorney-General, in terms of marked kindness and confidence. He continued to grow feebler during the afternoon, and at about 4 o'clock P. M. he lost the power of speech, and from that time lay quietly, without giving any indications of suffering. About ten minutes before his death, sister Loretta requested the permission of his friends to perform the baptismat rite, and no objection being offered, the ceremony was performed amid impressive silence. To her who performed this, the act undoubted'y appeared one of great importance, and the earnest and affectionate devotion with which it was done strongly affected those who witnessed it, even those holding a different faith from It is worthy of note that the sisters, whose benevolent works had been so heartily seconded by the great departed in furnishing aid, and lending his legislative efforts in behalf of the institution to which they are attached, Providence Hospital, visited him daily during his illness, and manifested a devo tion which showed how fully they appreciated

a close. This morning, Dr. Shaffen fest, of the Army Medical Museum, embalmed Mr. Stevens' body. No definite arrangements have been made as yet for his tuneral and the removal of his remains to his home in Pennsylvania. A large number of personal friends called at his late residence this morning; among others being

the charitable and beneficent spirit which has

marked the life that was drawing so rapidly to

THADDEUS STEVENS.

Just as the clock struck twelve last night Thaddens Stevens expired. In poor health for months past, his death would at no time during a year have greatly surprised his friends. Aud yet such was the iron will of the man, so bravely and stoutly did he combat the encroachments of physical decay, that he appeared cievated above the ills that flesh is heir to, and the announcement of his decease has created as profound a sensation as if the hand of death had fallen upon a man in the full vigor of middle life. Immer diately after the adjournment of Congress for the recess Mr. Stevens began his preparations for a visit to his iron furnaces in the western part of Pennsylvania, after which it was his intention to have made his customary summer sojourn at Bedford Springs, and then to have resorted to his home at Lancaster for a few weeks of retirement and repose. Before he could put this plan in execution he was suddenly prostrated, and for a few days his life was again despaired of. Rallying again, he again began his preparations for departing from the capitalbut only to be arrested by the sudden summons which is no respecter of persons, which pays no regard to the wishes of those whose will is a law unto their tellow-men. The last hour of the illustrious statesman is described as one of perfect tranquility. Surrounded by his physicians and the members of his household, he passed peacefully away at the midnight hour, and to-day there is a blank in the page of

Thaddeus Stevens' Early Life.

Thaddens Stevens, the son of Joshua Stevens and Sarah Morill, was a native of Vermont, having been born in the town of Danville, Caledonia county, in that State on the 4th of April, 1792, and had therefore attained the age of seventy-six years and four months at the time of his death. After due preparation he entered the University of Vermont, at Burlington, rewhen its doors were closed in consequence of the occupation of the town by the British troops. The seene of his studies was then transferred to Dartmouth College, where he graduated in 1814. His parents being in moderate circumstances, he was obliged frequently to intermit his college studies to obtain the means to resume them, and as soon as he had gra-

FIRST EDITION | duated he removed to a more active field, selecting York, in this State, as the starting point in life. He commenced reading law with David Casset, a prominent practitioner at the York county bar, at the same time being obliged, by his straitened pecuniary circumstances, to engage in teaching the borough academy. By day and by night he thus isbored in his double sphere, displaying that rare energy and masterly devotion to whatever he had in hand, which was one of the most striking characteristics of his after-life. Notwithstanding the division of his time and studies, he was fully prepared for practice in two years. At the outset of his protessional career, however, he found an obstacle in his path. The members of the York county bar, with the design of preventing his admis, sion, bad formally resolved that no one should be recognized as a lawyer who had been pursuing any other calling while engaged in pre. paring for the bar. Mr. Stevens paid little THE LAST HOURS OF THADDEUS | heed to this jealous action, but passed over the border into Maryland in 1816, entered his name for examination, was found fully qualified and admitted to the bar in that State; and with the credentials thus obtained at once presented his claims to admission in York county. They could not reasonably be offset, and he was duly admitted to practice in the State of his adoption at the age of twenty-four. Devoting himself at first almost exclusively to the duties of his profession, in which he achieved a fair reputation and considerable success, several years elapsed before he entered upon that illustrious political career which culminated in his attaining the most prominent position in the councils of the

His Legislative Career. In 1833 he was elected to the State Legislature from Adams county, and was subsequently returned in 1834, 1835, 1837, and 1841. His career in the councils of his adopted State presents a very marked resemblance to that in the National Congress. At Harrisburg Thaddeus Stevens held the same dominant-almost domineering-position which he achieved in Congress. The politics in Pennsylvania durng the decade from 1830 to 1840 were in a frightful tangle, which it is extremely difficult to understand, and still more difficult to unravel to such an extent that those of the present day who were not then living can grasp anything more than their leading points. In their dizzy whirl, Thaddeus Stevens was perfectly at home, possessing as he did, and as he has still more fully exhibited in Congress, the great elements of success in times of intense excitement. He was elected to the Legislature as a Whig: but although he was ever a most uncompromising antagonist of the Democratic party, he encountered for a time a strong opposition in the ranks of his own party, arising from his decided enmity to Freemasonry, and everything and

everybody which pertained to it. His Warfare Against Masonry.

At the beginning of this period the political complexion of Pennsylvania was more decidedly Democratic than that of any other State in the Union. The overwhelming majority by which General Jackson carried the State in 1828 appeared to have given the Democrate a permanent ascendancy in the affairs of the Commonwealth. But about the year 1832 the Democratic supremacy sustained a severe shock in consequence of the anti-Mason excitement. This new issue, as was the case in New York, soon lost its merely social bearing, and assumed all the proportious and importance of a great political question. The most intense and bitter feeling was engendered, and many districts of the State were completely revolutionized by it in their

The connection of Thaddens Stevens with this agitation was the most important point in his early political history. He hated Free Masonry with an intensity which fairly rivalled that of John Quincy Adams, while he opposed it with an earnestness which left the "Old Man Eloquent" entirely in the background. The breach in the Democratic ranks became wider and wider, from 1835 to 1838, and at last culminated in their presenting two candidates for Governor, when Ritner, the anti-Mason Whig candidate, THE LIFE AND PUBLIC SERVICES OF slipped into office between them. Thaddeus Stevens became the leading spirit of Governor Ritner's administration, and was the head and front of a grand crusade against Masonry, in the shape of a legistative inquisition into its affairs. The prosecution was conducted with unexampled vigor, but the defense was equalty stubborn, and, in the end, successful. Principally through Mr. Stevens' counsels, the most prominent Masons of the State were subpoensed and summoned to Harrisburg, among them being the late George M. Dallas and the Hon. Joseph R. Chandler, of this city. Men of this standing were put upon the witness' stand and commanded to divuige all the secrets of their organization. This they boldly and emphatically refused to do, and their digmited demeanor and outspoken remonstrances gained for them the victory. For once in his career Thaddeus Stevens was balked in his purpose.

In 1836 he was elected a member of the Convention which framed the State Constitution of 1837, and in 1838 he was appointed a Canal Commissioner.

His Career in the Constitutional Con-

was a very prominent one. The Convention assembled on the 2d of May, 1837, and from the first Mr. Stevens acquired marked distinction for the broad and liberal views which he advanced on all questions concerning the best interests of the State, assuming the leadership of such of its members as were in agreement

His Advocacy of Equal Rights.

Even at that early day, when to express the lightest sympathy with the colored race was almost equivalent to political ostracism, the oppressed African found in him a determined advocate. On the 9th of June a resolution was introduced into the Convention, providing for the appointment of a Committee to inquire into the expediency of so amending the fundamental law of the State as to prohibit in future the emigration into State of fugitives from slavery and even of free persons of color. He at once assailed the leaders of this proscriptive movement with all the fire and energy of his soul, and succeeded in defeating the passage of

On another point he was equally decided. When the Convention came to the consideration of the militia system, Mr. Stevens plunged into the exciting debate, maintaining that, in time of



peace, no citizen should be compelled to bear arms; but that, in time of war, every able. bodied man should be required to perform military duty, or pay a monetary equivalent for exemption.

His Championship of the Public School

His chiefenergies in the Convention, however, were devoted to the perfection and advocacy of our present admirable public school system. Governor Wolf, a Democrat, is entitled to the credit of being in the main, the originator of this system; but to Thaddeus Stevens we are indebted for its final triumph. The basis of the school system had been established by an act of the Legislature during Governor Wolt's administration; which closed with the year 1835, nearly two years previous to the assembling of the Constitutional Convention. As soon as it became the law of the State, the opposition which it had encountered from the first was redoubled, and so strong was the prejudice against it that a large majority of the members of the succeeding Legislature were pledged to its unconditional repeal. Their triumph was at hand, when, fit the month of April, 1835, Thaddeus Stevens arose in his place and pronounced an oration of unequalled eloquence which turned the tide of opinion and saved the honor of the State. In the course of this masterly effort Mr. Stevens

'In giving this law to posterity you set the part of the philanturopist, by bestowing upon the poor as well as the rich the greatest earthly boon which they are capacle of receiving: you act the part of the phi-lesopher by pointing, if you do not lead them up she hill or science; you act the part of the hero, if it see lasocher by pointing, if you do not lead them up she hill or acience; you act the nart of the hero, it it be true, as you say, that popular vengeance follows close upon your feetsteps. Here, then, if you wish true propularity, is a theatre in which you may acquire it. What renders the name of Socrates inmortal, but his love of the human family, exhibited under all circumstances, and in contempt of every danger? But courage, even with but little benevolence, may confer lasting renown. It is this which makes us bow with involuntary respect at the names of Napoleon, of the far, and of Richard of the Lon Heart. But what earthly giver is there equal to lustre and duration to that conferred by education? What else could have bestowed such renown upon the philosophers the poets, the statesmen, and or store of suitquity? What else could have conferred such undisputed applance upon Aristotic Demonthenes, and Homer—en Virgit, Horace, and Cicero? And is learning less interesting and important now han it was in centuries past, when those statesmen and orature charmed and ruled empires with their cloquence?

tors charmed and ruled empires with their eloquence?

"Let all, therefore, who would sustain the character of the philosopher and philauthropist, sustain
this law. Those who would add thereto the grory of
the hero, can acquire it here; for in the present state
of feeling in Pennsylvania, I am witting to admit
that but little less dangerous to the public man is the
war-club and battle-axe of asvage ignorance, than to
the lion-hearted Richard was the Reen scimetar of
the Saracen. He who would eppose it, either through
mability to comprehend the advantages of general
education, or from unwillingness to bestow them on
all his fellow-sitizens, even to the lowest and the
poorest, or from dread of pepular vesgeance, seems
to me to want either the head of the philosopher, the
heart of the philauthropist, or the nerve of the hero."

Governor Welf, who was doubly opposed to Governor Welf, who was doubly opposed to

Mr. Stevens politically, being a leading member of the Masonic fraternity, as well as a stout Democrat, was still such a devoted friend to popular education that his heart was completely won by Mr. Stevens' successful advocacy of the cause in which both took such a deep interest. He at once summoned Mr. Stevens into his presence, and when the champion of popular edu. cation entered the apartment of the Governor, the latter fell upon his neck and poured forth his thanks in broken tones and tears.

but, although the cause of popular education had thus gained a decided victory over ignorance and prejudice, the spirit of opposition to it was not yet dead, and in the Constitutional Convention it actuated a large and powerful faction who were in favor of establishing a marked distinction between the rich and poor. Thaddeus Stevens stood up manfully in the cause of the latter, and earnestly opposed any and every attempt at branding as paupers the children of poverty and declaring them to be unworthy of the advantages of a free education. He maintained that it should be made the duty of the Legislature to provide for the establishment of such free schools throughout the Commonwealth as might be necessary to afford ample opportu. nity to all. He advocated the doctrine that every child in the State, whether of rich or poor parentage, should be entitled to as liberal an education as could be given gratuitously in a well arranged and thoroughly classified school system; while the efforts of those who favored the establishment of a separate system for the sole advantage of paupers were far from re

ceiving his sympathies, and were earnestly denounced.

In connection with Mr. Stevens' course in reference to the public school system, an interesting and characteristic anecdote is told. As it has never appeared in print we give place to it here, to illustrate the generous impulses of a man who has frequently been accused of a total lack of that quality. A certain lady was so pleased with Mr. Stevens' exertions in behalf of theschool system that she commemorated them in a short poem. This came under the notice of Mr. Stevens, who declared it to be a gem of its kind. Subsequently his attention was again directed to the poem by a prominent justice of our Supreme Court. Mr. Stevens expressed his hearty appreciation of the compliment, and inquired what would be a fitting response on his part. His friend informed him that the author of the lines was the owner of a farm which was heavily mortgaged, and that she was unable to clear off this incumbrance. He then suggested that Mr. Stevens might satisfy the claims of the mortgage and present the release to the lady.

His Opposition to Henry Clay. Although Mr. Stevens was always an uncom

His Removal to Lamcaster.

On the expiration of his last term of office as a member of the State Legislature, in 1842, Mr. Stevens removed from Adams county to the city of Lancaster, where he resided during the remainder of his life, maintaining, also, a separate establishment in the city of Washington during his Congressional career. After this event several years were again devoted principally to the practice of his profession; and it was not until 1848 that he again appeared prominently

His First Congressional Career. In that year he was elected a member of the House of Representatives of the Thirty-first Congress, His advent upon this new and broader stage was beheld with anticipations of failure by his enemies, and not without some mugivings by his friends. It was thought by those who had not yet learned the strength of the man, that he would there be completely overshadowed, and that his local renown would be of no avail, as far as his ability to command an influential position was concerned. Perhaps they were not mistaken in the result, but his failure resulted from other causes than his weakness. Having committed himself to the antislavery movement, at the very outset of the sgitation of the questions connected with the Wilmot Proviso and the compromise measures of 1850, Mr. Stevens became the leader of that wing of the anti-Democratic party in his neighborhood, known as the "Wooly-heads" in distinction from the "Silver-greys," who supported the policy of President Fillmore. This course greatly impaired his strength with the people of his district, and, although he secured a renomination and a re-election in 1850, in 1852 he was practically defeated for the former, and

But in 1858 he again became a candidate for Congress and was successively returned to the House of Representatives at every election up to 1866. In the following table are given the

"I'll do it!" responded Mr. Stevens, promptly, and he was as good as his word.

promising opponent of technical Democracy, and a thorough-going advocate of the leading doctrines of the great Whig party, he was still more of an anti-Ma on than a Whig, and from his decided convictions on this subject, taken in connection with his anti-slavery proclivities, he was brought into antagonism with the national leader of the party, and strenuously opposed the claims of Henry Clay upon the Presidency, both in 1840 and in 1844; for the reason that Clay was a royal Arch-Mason, as long as Masonry continued a vital issue, and after that because of the latter's associations and sympathies with the pro-slavery party. But he placed too great a stress upon the necessity of party discipline to permit himself to oppose the election of Mr. Clay when he had once received the endorsement of the political organization with which

again forced into comparative retirement. His Second Congressional Career.

 Year.
 Republican.
 Democrat.
 Majority.

 1858...
 Stevens. 9 518
 Hopkins. 6341
 3.172

 1860...
 Stevens. 12,964
 Scattering. 470
 12,494

 1862...
 Stevens. 11,174
 Steinman. 6550
 4,524

 1864...
 Stevens. 11,804
 North. 7344
 4 430

 1866...
 Stevens. 14 298
 Reynolds. 8675
 5,623

With his second entrance into the Congressional arena commenced that wonderful career which is certainly without a parallel in the history of our country. The great crisis of the century was at hand, and with its advent Thaddeus Stevens again displayed those remarkable qualities which had at one time made the Legislature of Pennsylvania a mere creature of his will. His temperament was that of a leader -a dictator, rather-and slowly but surely he progressed, step by step, into a position which gave him the thorough command of his party in the national halls of legislation. On the assembling of the Tairty-seventh Congress, in 1861, the position of Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means-the acknowledged leadership of the House-was tendered him by Speaker Grow, and he was continued in it by Speaker Collax during the term of the Thirtyeighth Congress. To follow his nominal stand. ing to the end of his career, it is necessary at this point to touch upon

His Financial Course.

The financial policy of the nation is in the hands of the Committee on Ways and Means, and, as an almost universal rule, is shaped by the majority of its members, the Chairman holding far more power than that conferred by his mere casting vote. It is therefore imperatively necessary that this commutee should represent the prevailing sentiment of the majority of the House. In superintending the organization of our intricate system of internal taxation he displayed a lar-reaching statesmanship; and in becoming its champion at the risk of utterly wrecking his popularity with an overburdened people, he exhibited a dauntless courage which must command the respect of the world for all time.

But during the debates of the Thirty-eighth Congress it became evident to his Republican colleagues that his views on many vital points were not altogether in accord with those of a majority of the party in Congress. The Hon John Wentworth expressed the prevailing distrust in a speech, in the course of which he said to Mr. Stevens, in substance, "We will follow wherever you lead on the question of recon struction; but in financial matters we do not consider you sound." The main point on which "the great Commoner" diverged from the line of policy marked out by his Republican colleagues was in the presentation and advocacy of certain financial measures which were so visionary and impracticable that the party would have been wrecked by their adoption. We need only cite as an example the famous act regulating the sale of gold and prohibiting its exportation, which, instead of diminishing the premium on

the precious metal, sent it up with a rush. On the 20th of February, 1862, when the House was considering the proposition of the Senate to make the interest on our bonds and notes payable in gold, Mr. Stevens, at that time Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Meaus, moved to include "also" payments to officers, soldiers and sailors in the Army and Navy of the United States, and for all supplies for the said Government," which was rejected by a vote of 67 to 72. He then voted with the minority of the Republican members against the Senate proposition, which prevailed by a vote of

The vagaries of Mr. Stevens' financial policy were also fully exhibited in a long and claborate letter addressed to John Gyger, Esq., a prominent banker of Lancaster, written under date of November 4, 1867. In this letter he showed that he was entirely in accord with the Pendleton theory of the nature of our obligation to the national creditors. In reference to the "five-twenties" he said:

"When the bill was on its final passage the question was expressly asked of the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, and as expressly answered by him, that only the interest was payable in coin. But every instrument speaks for i.self and when it is slient upon the subject of currancy, it is always made payable in money, which means the legal-tender of the country."

Further on in this epistle Mr. Stevens wrote:-"What would be the difference in effect between the two modes of paying the public creditors—in green-backs, as the loans hai due, or excutatively is coin—fonce had a calculation made, when I brought in a oil to borrow greenbacks for that purpose (indeed I brought in three blills, hoping to save two or three billious thereby.) But each session the rattle of the gold room was much londer than what I was pleased to call the voice of reason, and what I still think deserved that appellation."

In the following paragraph he sets forth a rather curious reason for desiring a return to specie payments:-

"I observe that respectable New York papers have for the last year or two charged me with waning to delay the resumption of specie payment. This is wholly false. I have been auxious to resume the use of coin as a legal tender exclusively, not because it is any better as a token of debt, but because it has been adopted by most of the other civilized nations. But I do not wish to resume by breaking the bones of every manufacturer, mechanic, and agriculturist for the benefit of foreign operators who have now their fixed capital."

Finally, referring to the position of the European creditor with relation to our bonds,

"Gold was made to purchase greenbacks at the rat of apont 280 to a dollar. But suppose them to be sold at that time for 40 per cent—which was highest, I think, they commanded what was operation? The purchaser paid to-day \$100 in a for \$1000, and next Monday, quarter day, received

for \$1000, and next Monday, quarter day, received the laterest on \$1000 in golu, and so ever since; and now casims that when the principal tails due in a year or two it shall be paid in coin.

"This is what they call honor, conscience, justice, through the custom of the country, and tell the larir ers of America that they were bound to pay the money dealers of Europe this enormous rate to save their property from destruction, and the moral men of New York denounce you and me and others as dishonorable robbers and awindlers if we do not in forty years quadrucie the capital of the Rothschilds, Golesmiths, and other large money dealers. I must beg leave to judge for myself of this moustrous proposition, and to see whether I am bound to pay any more than he demands who, with pistol at my breast, commands me to stand and deliver."

It was principally in consequence of the feeling of distrust on the part of the Republican members of the House, that the labors previously incumbent upon the Committee on Ways and Means were divided, at the opening of the Thirty-ninth Congress; and a new standing committee, that on Appropriations, was created, with Mr. Stevens as Chairman, a position to which he was reappointed on the organization of the Fortieth Congress. In raising this committee, the laborious duties of the Committee on Ways and Means, and the failing health of Mr. Stevens, were assigned as the leading reasons; but, while these may have had considerable weight, the lack of confidence in his financial policy was undoubtedly the moving

His Course During the Rebellion. From first to last Mr. Stevens was an undinch-

names of his competitors, and the votes cast for | ing advocate of the integrity of the Union, and every vote cast by him during the progress of the war was in favor of its vigorous prosecution to the end.

On the 2d of December, 1861, Mr. Stevens offered a preamble reciting that slavery was the cause of the Rebellion, and there could be no solid and permanent peace in the republic so long as the institution existed; that slaves were then used as an essential means of supporting and protracting the war; and that the law of nations authorized the liberation of an enemy's slaves as a means of weakening his power. Appended was a series of resolutions which requested the President to grant freedom to all slaves who should leave their masters, or who should aid in quelling the Mebellion; and pledging compensation to all loyal citizens for losses sustained under the operations of this measure. It was not pressed to passage at the time.

On the 2d of December, 1862, Mr. Stevens effered a series of resolutions asserting the invegrity and perpetuity of the Union, and declaring it a high crime for any person in the employment of the Government to propose accept, or advise the acceptance of terms of peace on any other basis. These resolutions were also postponed for future consideration.

On the 8th of December, 1862, Mr. Stevens brought torward a measure entitled "An act to indemnify the President, and other persons, for suspending the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, and acts done in pursuance thereof," which bill, under the operation of the previous question, was passed through all its stages on the same day. Against this measure thirty-six members of the House attempted to enter their solemn protest, characterizing it as "a deliberate, paipable, and dangerous violation of the Consultation, and therefore utterly null and void." The protest was tabled by a vote of 75 to 41, and the blil finally became a law, with slight modifications, on the 3d of March, 1863.

On the 27th of January, 1863, Mr. Stevens introduced a bill for the enlistment of 150,000 colored soldiers, which finally passed the House Pebruary 2, after having been modified by its author, so that no limit was placed upon the number of the troops, except in the discretion of the President. A proviso was also attached. which prohibited any person of African descent from being placed in command over white officers or soldiers.

During the discussion on the Conscription acts, Mr. Stevens, on June 28, 1864, introduced an additional section which was incorporated with the bill then under consideration, as it passed the House, providing "that nothing contained in the act should be construed to alter or in any way effect the law relative to those conscientiously opposed to bearing arms."

He also took an active part in the measures which resulted in the adoption by Congress of the Constitutional Amendment abolishing slavery throughout the United States.

His Reconstruction Policy.

The key-note to Mr. Stevens' course on the great question of Reconstruction was given in a remarkable speech delivered by him in the House of Representatives, in the course of which he declared, although the late Chief Justice Taney had not at the time been in his grave a year, that "his opinions had damued him to everlasting intamy, and, he feared, to everlasting flame." In the same speech he expressed his impatience with the Government for the magnatimity shown by it in its attitude up to that date towards the insurrectionary States, and advocated the adoption of the policy which had been visited upon vanquished nations by Rome in the less civilized epochs of her history. The South he regarded as conquered territory, and, therefore, as subject in all things to the will, wishes, and whims of Congress,

Notwithstanding the distrust with which his financial schemes were viewed, by his straightforward and earnest course during the war. after its termination Mr. Stevens still enjoyed the confidence of, or at least maintained his supremacy over, his Republican colleagues to such an extent that he secured the chairmanship on the part of the House of Representatives, of the joint Committee on Reconstruction, appointed under the concurrent resolutions of December 15, 1865.

By his position and commanding influence in this committee, he did more towards shaping the policy of Congress with regard to the lately rebellious States than any other man. On the 20th of February, 1866, he gave practical effect to the sentiments mentioned above by introducing, by authority of the Reconstruction Committee, a concurrent resolution, providing that no Senator or Representative should be admitted from any of the States in insurrection, "until Congress shall have declared such State entitled to such representation." This resolution passed the House by a vote of 109 year to 40 nays, and the Scnate by 29 yeas to 18 nays.

From that time forward he was so thoroughly identified with the Congressional policy at every step that a sketch of his stormy career would necessarily embrace an outline of the history of the country during that exciting period. At times he was able to keep the majority of the Honse with him, but now and then failed in this; and then, with a wisdom that is entitled to the name of statesmanship, he spurred them on as fast and as far as they would go, accepting all that he could get, whan he could not get all that he wished.

In the closing scenes of the great drama of reconstruction, Mr. Stevens was prevented, by his extreme feebleness, from taking a very active part. But his principles had triumphed in the main, and he was content with sitting by as a silent spectator while his colleagues on the Committee on Reconstruction guided the course of the bills which successively readmitted to representation in Congress the States which had been rehabilitated after the plan laid down by him. Yet at times he still took an active part, made several speeches, and watched the whole proceeding with the keenest anxiety and interest. A striking instance of his love of exact justice and conformity to law was afforded when, on the 17th of March last, he arose and

Said:—

Mr. Speaker, after full examination of the returns from Alabama. I am not satisfied to force a vote on this bill and admit the State against our own laws. While there is a difference of twenty odd thousand against it, it would not be doing such justice in legislation as would be expected by the people. That being the case. I move that the bill be recommitted. Mr. Stevens' last speech of importance in connection with the pacification of the country [Continued on the Highth Page.]